

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22 (canceled).

23. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises:

first supplying means for supplying a solution containing silver ions to sealed mixing means;

second supplying means for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

third supplying means for supplying a reaction field solution to the sealed mixing means; the sealed mixing means for mixing materials supplied from the first, second and third supplying means to form a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid;

storage means for the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the sealed mixing means;

fourth supplying means for supplying the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the storage means to an ultrafiltration process; and

purification means for removing by-product salts from the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid by ultrafiltration.

24. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 23, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected to a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means.

25. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 23, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid for the second supplying means is connected to the sealed mixing means or a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means at a position between a position at which a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected and the sealed mixing means.

26. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises:

first supplying means for supplying a solution containing silver ions to sealed mixing means;

second supplying means for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

the sealed mixing means for mixing materials supplied from the first and second supplying means and third supplying means mentioned below to form a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid;

storage means for the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the sealed mixing means;

third supplying means for supplying at least a part of the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

fourth supplying means for supplying the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the storage means to an ultrafiltration process; and

purification means for removing by-product salts form the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid by ultrafiltration.

27. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 26, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected to a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means.

28. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 26, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid for the second supplying means is connected to the sealed mixing means or a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means at a position between a position at which a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected and the sealed mixing means.

29. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 26, which further comprises a fifth supplying means for supplying the dispersion after ultrafiltration from the purification means to the storage means.

30. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 26, which further comprises a sixth supplying means for supplying water to the storage means.

31. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises:

first supplying means for supplying a solution containing silver ions to sealed mixing means;

second supplying means for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

the sealed mixing means for mixing materials supplied from the first and second supplying means and third supplying means mentioned below to form a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid;

first storage means for the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the sealed mixing means;

third supplying means for supplying at least a part of the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

fourth supplying means for supplying the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the first storage means to second storage means;

fifth supplying means for supplying the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the second storage means to an ultrafiltration process; and

purification means for removing by-product salts from the dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid by ultrafiltration.

32. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 31, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected to a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means.

33. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 31, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid for the second supplying means is connected to the sealed mixing means or a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means at a position between a position at which a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected and the sealed mixing means.

34. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 31, which further comprises a sixth supplying means for supplying the dispersion after ultrafiltration from the purification means to the second storage means.

35. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 31, which further comprises a seventh supplying means for supplying water to the second storage means.

36. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises:

first supplying means for supplying a solution containing silver ions to sealed mixing means;

second supplying means for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means;

the sealed mixing means for mixing materials supplied from the first and second supplying means and third supplying means mentioned below to form a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid;

storage means for the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid from the sealed mixing means; and

third supplying means for supplying the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means.

37. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 36, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected to a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means.

38. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 36, wherein a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid for the second supplying means is connected to the sealed mixing means or a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution for the third supplying means at a position between a position at which a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions for the first supplying means is connected and the sealed mixing means.

39. (original): The apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid according to Claim 36, wherein the formed dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid is fed from the sealed mixing means to the storage means via a heat exchanger.

40. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions, a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid, sealed mixing means and a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution to the sealed mixing means, wherein the pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions is connected to the pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution, and the pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid is connected to the sealed mixing means or the pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution at a position between a position at which the pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions is connected and the sealed mixing means.

41. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises sealed mixing means, a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions to the sealed mixing means, a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid to the sealed mixing means, and a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution to the sealed mixing means.

42. (original): An apparatus for preparing a dispersion containing grains of silver salt of an organic acid, which comprises a pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions, a pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid, first sealed

mixing means, second sealed mixing means, a pipeline for connecting the first sealed mixing means and the second sealed mixing means and a pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution to the first sealed mixing means, wherein the pipeline for supplying a solution containing silver ions is connected to the pipeline for supplying a reaction field solution to the first sealed mixing means or the first sealed mixing means, and the pipeline for supplying a solution containing an alkali metal salt of an organic acid is connected to the pipeline for connecting the first sealed mixing means and second sealed mixing means or the second sealed mixing means.